

PROTOCOL FOR RESEARCH REPORTS

LOUISIANA SPIRITS NORTH TEAM

Research reports are based upon the highest standards of the scientific methodology, reasoning, and the legal principles for the admission of relevant evidence into an inquiry by individuals.

The scientific method refers to a body of techniques for investigating phenomena, acquiring new knowledge, or correcting and integrating previous knowledge. To be termed scientific, a method of inquiry must be based on observable, empirical, and measurable evidence subject to specific principles of reasoning. The *Oxford English Dictionary* defines the scientific method as a “method of procedure that has characterized natural science since the 17th century, consisting in systematic observation, measurement, and experiment, and the formulation, testing, and modification of hypotheses.”

Although procedures may vary from one field of inquiry to another, identifiable features distinguish scientific inquiry from other methods of obtaining knowledge. Scientific researchers propose hypotheses as explanations of phenomena, and design experimental studies to test these hypotheses. These steps must be repeatable, to predict future results. Theories that encompass wider domains of inquiry may bind many independently derived hypotheses into a coherent, supportive structure. Theories, in turn, may help form new hypotheses or place groups of hypotheses into context.

Scientific inquiry is generally intended to be as objective as possible, to reduce biased interpretations of results. Another basic expectation is to document, archive, and share data and methodology, so they are available for peer review by others, giving them opportunity to verify results by attempting to reproduce them. This practice, called full disclosure, also allows statistical measures and analysis, to determine reliability of these data.

It is recognized that not all events are subject to direct and measurable inquiry, but may still be studied, analyzed, subjected to stringent statistical predictions, and evidence testified to. Such common areas include, but are not limited to: many areas of quantum physics, weather conditions, human psychology, and random, otherwise not predictable events, personal or in group experience. The entering of such observations into testimony is generally limited into two areas. The first is the entering of testimony by the *factual witness*. The factual witness is an individual who has personally, through the use of his own five senses, gathered first-hand knowledge on an event, and may therefore report that which he has experienced. Such evidence is subject to review in content, but is generally valuable in the context that given Event A did in fact occur, or given Event A did not occur. The second entering of testimony is that of the *expert witness*, who through specialized education, experience, knowledge, skill, OR training, possesses specialized knowledge beyond that of the average individual, sufficient that others may generally rely upon the witness's opinion about given evidence. This opinion is generally, in the aggregate, that a given Event A, more probable than not, did in fact occur, or that given Event A, more probable than not, did not occur.

It is within the scope of these generally accepted practices, that we in the Louisiana Spirits

North Team gather and organize data; reach subsequent conclusions based upon scientific methodology, reasoning, and highest statistical standards for data that must be analyzed as opposed to measured; use of factual witnesses and expert witnesses for personal-type experiences which cannot be measured or re-created.

It is our opinion that this report conforms to these standards, in full disclosure, to the client. This report contains data which, in our opinion, did occur, or was measured or interpreted to have occurred, as well as data which was not gathered, but by its very absence, may affect conclusions herein. Data which was not found, but may have an affect on the reported phenomena or its apparent validity, will be notated and explained herein.